



CONSERVATION CONNECTIONS



Newsletter of the St. Louis Region Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Centers

The August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

&

The Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

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To Hunt or Not To Hunt?

by: Erin Shank, Urban Wildlife Biologist

Suburban St. Louis communities face a dilemma when it comes to deer management. So what's the scoop on deer hunting in St. Louis & what's all the fuss about?

When most municipalities in St. Louis were incorporated, no one dreamed that one day deer would roam through neighborhoods sometimes outnumbering people and pets. At that time, many cities approved ordinances banning the use of any projectile, or a "No Projectile" ordinance. This law not only prohibited the use of firearms, but also archery equipment. These ordinances probably made more sense then, as deer hunting was generally a rural activity and suburban areas didn't have much use for hunters as deer managers.



Needless to say, today we have an abundance of deer throughout many of our outer suburban communities. Deer management through hunting is sorely needed, so why is it so difficult to put into practice? The simple answer is: change is

difficult. A more comprehensive answer explains why: most suburban residents are unfamiliar with hunting and bring along a fear of the unknown. Most also enjoy seeing deer in their backyards, but wish for fewer deer and less damage. And finally, many suburban residents believe a non-lethal population control option (e.g., trap and relocation or fertility control) is available or right around the corner. All of these factors and concerns are left up to local elected officials to address when debating whether or not to change a "No Projectile" ordinance to allow for deer hunting and therefore deer management.

An overabundance of deer is not a problem that is unique to one St. Louis suburb over others. Because it is a regional issue, municipalities from across west St. Louis County decided to join forces and tackle the issues together. The West St. Louis County Deer Task Force formed two years ago and was made up of representatives from 10 area municipalities and 4 agencies. The Task Force completed a



review of the wide variety of concerns involved in managing suburban deer. They completed a preliminary report and sought public input through two public forums and a resident survey. After gathering all this information, the Task Force completed recommendations for deer management in west St. Louis County in July 2005. The recommendations focus on population control through archery hunting, and damage control through various methods such as fencing, repellants, and roadside deer crossing signs. The full recommendations and report are available online at: <http://www.mdc.missouri.gov/areas/stlouis/news/2004/20041026.htm>



What can you do?

If you are interested in helping to manage suburban deer populations through hunting, these are ways that you can help:

•If you live in a community with a "No Projectile" ordinance and an abundance of deer, let your local elected officials (aldermen and mayor) know that you would like to see this ordinance changed. Become familiar with the Task Force report and recommendations so you have good information and ideas to share with them.

•Help cultivate the notion that suburban deer management means harvesting does. Big buck hunting doesn't help manage the herd, and this mentality is outdated when it comes to suburban deer hunting.

•Participate in the Urban Counties portion of the firearms season. October 7-10, 2005, hunters may take antlerless deer on firearms tags in St. Louis and St. Charles Counties.

•If you're given an opportunity to hunt in a suburban area, remember that your actions may influence another's perception of hunting and other hunters. Be discreet about hauling your deer around a suburban area by covering it with a tarp. Being unfamiliar with hunting, many suburban residents form attitudes toward hunters based on personal experiences with one or a few individuals. Make sure that experience is a positive one, and it may influence suburban deer management in the future.

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Plan and Prepare!

by: Scott Sarantakis, Outdoor Skills Specialist

The pages of the calendar continue to change as do the seasons, in our great state of Missouri. With October blowing in a lot of people will be hanging up their fishing poles and reaching for a bow, shotgun, or rifle in pursuit of wild game. Others will give the canoe or kayak a rest and grab their hiking boots and backpack in search of their next adventure. In Missouri we are blessed to be able to experience such a variety of seasons in our use of the outdoors, but we also need to learn how to be prepared.

It is important that we all prepare properly before venturing out on our next outdoor adventure. Once you have decided where you plan to go, gather as much information as you can on the area such as a copy of the area regulations and a topographic map. Then you will need to develop a list of equipment items that should be brought along. The following is a list of some basic items: 1)Tent--either backpacking or vehicle camping variety, 2)Sleeping Bag--rated for the minimum temperature that you plan on camping out in (for example 20 degree Fahrenheit), 3)Clothing--dress in layers and avoid cotton instead use polypropylene and wool, also bring an outer shell that is wind and water proof like a rain suit, 4)Water--purification methods such as boiling, iodide tablets or water purifier, 5)Food--high energy source that can be eaten uncooked or cooked on a stove or open fire, 6)Fire Starter--have more than one source kept in different locations such as waterproof matches, lighter, or flint and steel, 7)Map and Compass or GPS Unit--know



how to use the compass or GPS unit properly and how to read a topographic map in order to navigate unknown terrain, 8)First Aid Kit--know how to administer basic first aid and CPR. After you have gathered all of the necessary equipment, then you need to develop a written plan that is left with a trusted family member or friend. This should include directions to the area you plan to visit, where on the area you plan to be, and what time you plan to return home.



Depending on if you plan on backpacking, hunting, or a combina-



tion of both there will be additional equipment that you will need to have in order to ensure a safe and enjoyable trip. One item that should be worn by everyone who uses public areas around the state in the fall and early winter is some sort of HUNTERS ORANGE garment. It is important to remember that public areas are open for a variety of uses and just because it appears that you are the only

one around, don't count on it. The rights of other area users need to be respected in order for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable time while out experiencing Missouri's wonderful Conservation Areas, National Forest, and State Parks.

Over the years, hunters who truly love the woods and wild things come to revere such moments of privilege. As often as not, no shot is fired.
...Mike Gaddis

Are You Ready to Hunt?

by: Greg Toczowski, Henges Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

Hunters spend many preparation hours at Missouri Conservation Department's shooting ranges practicing the skills necessary to be a



proficient shot to harvest their quarry in an ethical and humane manner. Deer hunters practice good shooting fundamentals when they zero their firearm in. Shotgunners spend countless hours at the patterning range and clay target ranges preparing for hunt-

ing season. Shooting skills are always at the top of the list when it comes to hunter preparedness. Hunting equipment & gear is also an important component to being a well prepared hunter. Duck hunters can have a lot of equipment to get ready; boat, motor, trailer, decoys, blind construction, wader, camo clothing, life vest, this list could be endless. Deer hunters checkout their deer



stands, ATV& trailer, hunter orange vest & hat, and sharpen their knives for the job that comes after the harvest. Upland bird, turkey, squirrel, rabbit hunters and other game species, all hunters have equipment to get ready for hunting season. Other considerations include; map & compass or GPS, survival skills, first aid, hunter education training.

Hunters many times forget one very important element when preparing for hunting season and that is their self. Hunting often demands physical stamina that you may not do during your normal daily lives. Physical fitness should be a major part of hunter preparedness.



Annual physician check up is recommended before starting any vigorous fitness training program. They have found that walking 30 minutes 3 to 4 times a week will improve you cardio vascular performance. Start out at your own comfort level and build from that. Over doing it

right out-of-the-blocks may cause an injury and delay any progress to your fitness program. Plot your progress and increase activity and degree of difficulty at your pace. Make this FUN & ENJOYABLE. Many Missouri Conservation Areas have hiking trails that would be an excellent place to develop your training program. For you bird hunters take the K9 (on a leash) with you it will be good conditioning and socialization for both of you. Better yet, take the whole family. Everyone has their own physical capabilities and limitations. Those that have physical limitations should prepare their hunt with their physical limitations in mind.



Hunter preparedness and hunter safety begins with **YOU!**

When going back makes sense, you are going ahead...Wendell Berry

August A. Busch Memorial Outdoor Education Center

To Register for Programs/Classes Call (636) 441-4554

ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

OCTOBER PROGRAMS

Orienteering (Map & Compass)

Saturday, 1st – 9am to 12pm

Ready for that long hike or hunting trips into the woods and hollows of Missouri? Like to know more about how to use a topographical map and compass? This program will cover the basics for using each in the outdoors.



Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course

Tuesday, 4th - Thursday, 6th

5:30 pm each night

Hunter Education Certification Course open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test.



Muzzleloading Shotgun and Smooth Bore Trap and Clay Rabbit Shoot

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 8th. We will have several clay target throwers set up just for you. We have reserved one of our trap ranges for the entire day for smooth bore and muzzle loading shotgun shooters. If you have a gun to use bring it and come out for a day of fun. We will encourage some friendly competition and may come up with some shotgun games for everyone. This can be a fun day for viewers as well as the participants. Watching the shooters try to break clay birds with the old muzzle loaders and the smoke from the black powder add interest to the sport. If you do not have a black powder muzzle loader come out and see what all the fun is about. We will be filling the air with lead and white smoke, and most likely some tall tails as well.



Firearms Safety and Handling for the Non-Hunter

Have hunters in the home or sport shooters and worried about firearms around the house and you do not know how to handle them? Want to know about them to feel more comfortable or how to handle them safely, just in case? This class is for you. This class will cover basic safety for a variety of handguns, rifles and shotguns. There will be hands-on training to ensure firearms are unloaded or safe.



Campfire Building Basics & Hot Dog Roast

This program will cover numerous methods of fire starting for the curious, camper and hiker to the individual interested in survival skills. Open to all ages, hot dogs provided, bring your own marshmallows if wanted.



Build a Birdfeeder for our Feathered Friends

Thursday, 13th - 6pm to 9pm

Enjoy watching birds feeding in your back yard? Like to work with your hands and construct projects? This simple project is ideal for parents and children, scouts, and anyone who enjoys projects. All materials will be provided and individuals will be able to take home their feeders.



GPS Program

Saturday, 15th - 8am to 12pm

Wanting to know what all this technology is about? How does a GPS work to find your way around? Does it work in all conditions? What is Geocaching? For answers to these questions and to learn how to use basic handheld GPS units come to this program.



How to Build a Live Rabbit Trap II

Wednesday, 19th - 6pm to 9pm

Enjoy the outdoors and always wanted to make an old fashion wooden rabbit trap box? Like to work with your hands and construct projects? This simple project is ideal for parents and children, scouts, and anyone who enjoys projects. All materials will be provided and individuals will be able to take home their traps.



NRA Basic Muzzleloading Rifle Certification

Thursday, 20th - Saturday, 22nd

Basic Muzzleloader Shooting, open ages 8 and above, youth under 16 must attend with adult. Participants must attend classroom portion to shoot. Just got that new muzzleloader and feeling a little intimidated by all the powders, bullets, equipment, etc. or just wanting to know more about muzzle loaders? This is your last chance before the season opener. This program covers safety, handling, types, powders, bullets, equipment, marksmanship fundamentals and more. The Range will provide all firearms and ammunition for those without equipment. Participants should bring their own firearms, ammunition, equipment, and owner's manual to the course.



Hunting Optics and Bore Sighting Basics

Wednesday, 26th – 6:30pm to 8:30pm

Does the store salesman and understanding the technical jargon that goes along with purchasing your rifle scope, binoculars, or spotting scope have your head spinning? Confused and not sure what you need for your activity? The Busch staff will conduct a free program covering the basics of these optics and what you need to know to help with your decisions and use.



Wild Game Cooking

Thursday, 27th – 6pm to 9pm

Spouse hunts and just not sure how to prepare the game they bring home? Intimidated by having to prepare something unique, by today's standards? We'll discuss some of the basics along with swapping recipes and doing a little taste testing of our own.



Did you miss a past issue of our Conservation Connections Newsletter or looking for a past article.

**No worry just visit our web pages at:
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch
or**

**www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges
and click on the link at the left of the page for
our newsletter archives.**

Critics of hunting are fond of pointing out that wildlife has scarcely a chance against our highly efficient technology. But the fact is, wildlife has an edge of its own—and is likely to be enhanced by our increasing dependence on gadgets and decreasing reliance on our legs, eyes, ears, patience, and the savvy that accrues from years of experience. A good working definition of a game species is one that is fitted with survival equipment enabling it to take advantage, while a genuine sport hunter is one constrained by ethics and respect to give advantage....John Madson

August A. Busch Memorial Outdoor Education Center

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NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Deep Frying Turkeys

Wednesday, 2nd - 6pm to 9pm

Got that new deep fryer and got your turkey, so now what do you do? We will cover some how to prep that bird in differing ways. We will also cover safety of the deep fryer and its use. We will even deep fry and taste test a couple of the birds.



Game Prep for Taxidermy

Thursday, 3rd - 6pm to 8pm

Ready for the seasons? If you take that trophy of a lifetime what do you do for the taxidermist so he can give you a great mount? We will discuss the basics of how to handle and prep game for taking to the taxidermist along with watch some videos on the process



.22 Caliber Rifle Basics

Friday, 4th and Saturday, 5th

6pm Thursday in classroom,

8am Saturday at range

Interested in learning safety, proper marksmanship fundamentals to enjoy the use of your rifle in hunting or sport shooting for yourself and the family? Busch staff will take you through all the basics for you and your family to handle rifles and enjoy the sport. Then we move to the range to actually fire at our facility. .22 caliber target rifles and ammunition will be provided for all attendees. Attendees may bring their own rifle and ammunition to the range for shooting. Participants must attend the classroom portion to take part in the range firing.



Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course

Tuesday, 6th - Thursday, 8th

5:30 pm each night

Hunter Education Certification Course open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Must attend all three nights and pass test.



Dutch Oven Cooking

Saturday, 12th - 9am to 12pm

Got that big iron Dutch Oven, pot looking thing a just don't have a clue? Looking for recipes or how to use it to make something different for the family or a get together? Well join us as we cover how to use this oven like a pro. We'll discuss recipes, seasoning, heat, temps, etc. We'll even taste test some of those recipes ourselves.



Bore Sighting??

by: Tony Legg, Busch Outdoor Education Center Supervisor

Bore Sighting? What is this common term and what does it really mean? In 28 1/2 years as a professional and competitive shooter, hunter and firearms instructor I keep thinking I've about heard and seen it all, but someone continually proves my assumption incorrect. Even something as simple as bore sighting, so let's cover some of the basics what it does and doesn't do for your scoped rifle.

First, bore sighting in relation to a scoped rifle is a technique of aligning a scope's reticle/aiming point with the bore of your rifle, typically done with some type of optical device, nothing more. Unfortunately, this is often misconstrued as the rifle being zeroed and ready to hunt or shoot at long distances. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Our optical nerves send messages to our brain on how our eyes perceive things and we all do not perceive things the same. That's why many times two people can shoot the same rifle and not be able to group in the same location on the target, they

Knife Sharpening Basics

Wednesday, 16th - 6pm to 8pm

Why can't you get that knife sharp like when it was new? Ever heard the old warning, a dull knife is a dangerous knife? Looking for help and techniques to get those pocket, kitchen, hunting and fishing knives sharpened? This seminar will cover the differences in knives, edges, angles, and some of the techniques to sharpen them correctly. Great class for scouts.



NRA Basic Muzzle Loading Rifle Certification

Thursday, 17th - Saturday, 19th

6pm Thursday in classroom, 8am Saturday at range

Just got that new muzzleloader and feeling a little intimidated by all the powders, bullets, equipment, etc. or just wanting to know more about muzzle loaders? This program covers safety, handling, types, powders, bullets, equipment, marksmanship fundamentals and more. The Range will provide all firearms and ammunition for those without equipment. Participants should bring their own firearms, ammunition, equipment, and owner's manual to the course.



Build a Birdfeeder for our Feathered Friends

Saturday, 26th - 9am to 12 pm

Enjoy watching birds feeding in your back yard? Like to work with your hands and construct projects? This simple project is ideal for parents and children, scouts, and anyone who enjoys projects. All materials will be provided and individuals will be able to take home their feeders.



Campfire Building Basics & Hot Dog Roast

Saturday, 26th - 2pm to 5pm

This program will cover numerous methods of fire starting for the curious, camper and hiker to the individual interested in survival skills. Open to all ages, hot dogs provided, bring your own marshmallows if wanted.



.22 caliber Metal Target Plinking

Sunday, 27th - 8am to 10am

This program is for experienced .22 caliber rifle shooters. We will cover the safety of shooting metal targets and then shoot at some of these targets. Shooters may bring their own rifles and ammunition, limited to .22 cal Short, Long, or Long Rifle ammunition only.



perceive things through their eyes differently. So the rifle and scope are definitely not ready for a hunt after bore sighting them, they must be zeroed in for each individual by shooting and sighting in.

If you're lucky, you will be able to strike somewhere on the target paper at 25 yards after bore sighted. I prefer to have my target much closer to start the zeroing process after bore sighting, maybe 15 or 7 yards. Having the target closer ensures hits on the target paper and no wasted ammunition on shots that miss the paper all together. Only the extremely lucky individual will hit target paper with a bore sighted rifle at 50 or 100 yards. Regularly, I will watch individuals go through two or three boxes of expensive ammunition and not hit paper even once at 100 yards after I've advised them to start closer. I call that last attitude the "Tim Allen Effect", it's always a male and usually with too much testosterone in them or just an "Yea right, I know what I'm doing" attitude.

So, save yourself a lot of time and maybe some expensive shells, start with at least three to five shots at close range to get into the bull's-eye. Then slowly move out to longer ranges to practice and adjust for your rifle's trajectory. You will be much better prepared for the season and be a much more ethical hunter.

Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

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OCTOBER PROGRAMS

National Rifle Association

Muzzle Loading Rifle Instructor Course

**Mondays, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st
7pm to 10pm**

The course will teach you how to TEACH a specific NRA Courses to the general public. Course goals are: To develop NRA Certified Instructors who possess the knowledge, skills, and attitude to conduct a specific firearms safety program. In order to apply for Instructor Certification, a candidate must: possess a solid background in firearm safety and shooting skills in the instructor discipline you are applying for. Note; Pre-shoot Assessment Required prior to course. Contact: Mr. Ralph Redstone (314) 388-2245.



Adult Basic Handgun Course

Wed, 5th – 6pm to 9pm &

Sat, 8th - 8am to 10am

You will learn how to safely handle firearms, learn the basic parts of a handgun, how they work, shooting fundamentals, and will include live firing on the range. This is a 2 day program. This program does not meet any state requirements for the concealed carry training. This is one of our must popular firearms training programs, register early! Open to 21 years of age or older.



National Wild Turkey Federation(NWTF)

Big River Gobblers Chapter

Women in the Outdoors

Sunday, 9th – 8am to 4pm

This ALL day program will includes shotgun shooting fundamentals, archery, rifle shooting, basic handgun shooting skills, Dutch oven cooking, a variety of craft activities, and much more. This is sponsored by the NWTF Big River Gobblers WITO Chapter. Dress for outdoor activities. Lunch will be provided. 14 years old and up. Contact: Cheryl Vandavder, WITO Chairperson (636)274-2628



Intermediate American Trap

Wednesday, 12th – 6pm to 8pm &

15th - 8am to 10am

Improve your American Trap shooting game. Will include ATA rules, stance, gun mount, trap shells. The first class is lecture. It will be 3 hours long. The 2nd day will be a shooting session on the trap field. The shooting classes will be video taped for instructional assistance. Come join us for some trap shooting. One of America's most popular shooting sports! Must have completed a basic American Trap shooting course.



Retriever Dog Training Seminar

Friday, 14th – 6pm to 8pm &

15th – 8am to 10am

Have you ever wanted the challenge of training your own retriever gun dog? This course will teach you the things you need to know from breeder & breed selection, puppy development, obedience training, land & water retriever work, introducing the shotgun, hand & whistle commands, and more. This a 2 day course which includes lecture and field demonstration.



Missouri Hunter Education Student Course

Saturday, 15th & Sunday, 16th

9am to 4pm each day

The Missouri Hunter Education Student Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit. Students must be at least 11 years old to be certified. Proof of age (birth certificate) will be necessary for those students 11 to 13 years old. Students must pass a written exam to become certified. This is a 2 day program. Register early!!!!



Women's Basic Handgun

Wednesday, 19th – 6pm to 9pm &

Saturday, 22nd 8am to 10am

You will learn how to safely handle firearms, learn the basic parts of a handgun, how they work, shooting fundamentals, and will include live firing on the range. This is a 2 day program. This program does not meet any state requirements for the concealed carry training. This is one of our must popular women's firearms training programs, register early! Must be at least 21 years of age or older.



Pointer Dog Training Seminar

Friday, 21st – 6pm to 9pm &

Saturday, 22nd – 8am to 10am

This program is sponsored Wil-Nor Hunt Club. This is a 2 day program. The 1st session will include lecture on how to get started training your personal gun dog. Topics will include pointer breeds, breeder selection, critical periods of K-9 development, basic obedience, yard work & field training, introducing the shotgun, teaching the WHOA command, and more. The 2nd session is a field training demonstration with staff and pointers at the Wil-Nor Hunt Club.



Missouri Hunter Education Student Course

Saturday, 22nd & Sunday, 23rd

9am to 4pm each day

The Missouri Hunter Education Student Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit. Students must be at least 11 years old to be certified. Proof of age (birth certificate) will be necessary for those students 11 to 13 years old. Students must pass a written exam to become certified. This is a 2 day program. Register early!!!!



Youth Bow Clinic & Hunts

Friday, 28th – 6pm to 9pm Clinic

Saturday, 29th & Sunday, 30th

Hunts 5:30am to 9:30am each day

This is a youth hunting clinic that the students must have basic knowledge of archery shooting. This 3 day program will include 1 session on bow hunting safety, tree stand safety, hunter ethics, regulations, hunting technique, tracking, shooting exercise, and field dressing. The next 2 sessions will be the guided hunt opportunities on the Forest 44 Conservation Area. Camo clothing will be necessary to participate in the hunts. A parent/guardian MUST attend with the youth. 11 to 15 years old.



Remember

Busch and Henges Shooting Ranges
are offering

FREE bore sighting of scoped rifles
for those using our facilities.

Owners must stay with the firearm while being sighted in.

Homer once said: "The hunter goes his way 'neath frigid skies unmindful of his tender spouse."

Theodore Roosevelt was far more diplomatic about it: "Sweetest little wife, I think all the time of my little laughing, teasing beauty...and I could almost cry I love you so. But I think the hunting will do me good."

(I know wives who would agree; hunting gets their husbands out from underfoot during a time of year when they're not much good around the house anyway.)...John Madson

Jay Henges Outdoor Education Center

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Youth Upland Bird Hunting Clinic Friday, 4th - 6pm to 9pm & Saturday, 5th - 8am to 12pm



This youth bird hunting clinic is sponsored by Wil-Nor Hunt Club and the National Rifle Association's Firearms Training Team "First Steps in Firearms Safety". The 1st session will include firearms safety, hunter ethics, wildlife regulations, bird hunting techniques, wing shooting fundamentals, and game care. The 2nd session will be the hunt opportunity at the Wil-Nor Hunt Club in Jefferson County. Wil-nor will provide guides, dogs, and LUNCH! Youths must be student hunter education certified. 11 to 15 years of age Parent/Guardian must attend the program with the youth.

Turkey Deep Fried Friday, 16th - 6pm to 9pm



It is that time of year to decide how to cook the family turkey for Thanksgiving dinner. Have you ever tried a deep fried whole turkey? You will learn ways to prepare the turkey for deep frying and approximate cooking time by the weight of the bird. Come join us for a delicious treat!

NOVEMBER PROGRAMS

Women's Basic Shotgun Friday, 18th - 6pm to 9pm & Saturday, 19th - 9am to 12pm



This is a two day course. Learn the basics of shooting a shotgun. Shotgun safety, shotgun nomenclature, ammunition, shooting fundamentals, live fire exercise, shotgun maintenance. Bring your own shotgun, and ammunition, (trap loads 7 1/2 shot, 2 - boxes) eye & ear protection or we will provide it for you. Women 18 and up.

Boys Scouts of America Shotgun Merit Badge Program



Wed, 30th - 6:30pm to 9pm & Sat, Dec. - 8am to 12pm

This program will be taught by NRA and Missouri Hunter Education certified instructors. Program includes a 3 hour lecture on firearms safety, firearms nomenclature, ammunition, and shooting fundamentals. The second day will include the live fire proficiency requirements. This popular BSA program fills quick, schedule your troop early! This program is designed to be an organized scout troop activity. Scout leaders must provide 1 adult per 5 scouts. It is recommended that these scout leaders attend the lecture portion that will be assisting on the range during the proficiency shooting.

Chapter 3 The Criminalization of Natural Play.

...Countless communities have virtually outlawed unstructured outdoor nature play, often because of the threat of lawsuits, but also because of a growing obsession with order. Many parents and kids now believe outdoor play is verboten even when it is not; perception is nine-tenths of the law.

One source of the constriction is private government. Most housing tracts, condos and planned communities constructed in the past two to three decades are controlled by strict covenants that discourage or ban the kind of outdoor play many of us enjoyed as

children. Today, 47 million Americans live in homes ruled by condominium, cooperative, and homeowners' association, according to the Community Associations Institute. The number of community associations burgeoned from 10,000 in 1970 to 231,000 today. These associations impose rules on adults and children (if children are allowed in them at all), range from mildly intrusive to draconian. Scripps Ranch is governed by one of the more flexible community associations, but even here official squads of adults regularly tear down forts and tree houses built by kids in the wooded canyons....Richard Louv *Last Child in the Woods*

Range Rule to Remember....

by Jim Engel, Henges Range Officer

**"Only one firearm may be handled, loaded, and fired."
And "Only two people in any booth at one time."**

These two rules share the same safety concern of too much in too small an area. Our shooting booths are small areas and when you add a shooting table, sitting bench, rifle and pistol racks, gun cases, the area is reduced even more. Two people are safely workable, but any more than that and you will be getting in each other's way. It is quite possible with more than two people in the booth, someone could be bumped or trip over another and find themselves in front of the firing line or the muzzle of the shooter.

From the range safety officers' perspective and (literally) point of view, we cannot fully observe the shooter's activity in the booth if our view is blocked by a multitude of people.

The "Only one firearm handled, loaded and fired" rule is meant to easily keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction (up or down range) and not pointed at your booth buddy or the booth next door. Two shooters in the same booth would be hard pressed to shoot at the same designated target on the same angle so as to keep the trajectory of their bullet to impact the backstop. The range safety officer just has to be concerned with only 19 or so guns firing and not 38 at the same time. If more than the one firearm is loaded in the booth, this definitely is a safety concern. An accidental discharge

could occur if the shooter or other booth user was to forget that the arm is loaded due to confusion, hurrying and/or unintentionally putting their finger on the trigger while bringing it from or going to the gun rack or the shooting position. And of course we don't want anyone to be a two fisted shooter, ala' the Lone Ranger or Roster J. Cogburn in True Grit.

This rule, as all of our rules, is for everyone's safety and enjoyment. They are not intended to be a burden on users. **THANK YOU for helping to keep the ranges safe and fun for all.**

Did you pick up this Conservation Connections Newsletter at a business or range?

Would you like to have it delivered to your house free or know someone else who would enjoy receiving it?

Just give us a call with the mailing address of your friends, family, and/or yourself and we will mail it right to your home or business.

**For a Free
Conservation Connections Newsletter
Subscription call
(636) 441-4554**



St. Louis Region Hunter Education Certification Courses

ALL COURSES ARE FREE OF CHARGE TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS NOTED

(additional courses listed on range program pages)

The Missouri Hunter Education Certification Course is a mandatory requirement for anyone born on or after January 1, 1967 to purchase a firearm hunting permit or deer and turkey transportation tags. Many of our free youth managed hunts and clinics require both youth and adult to be certified.

Open to ages 11 and up, youth ages 11 thru 13 must have an adult attend with them, ages 15 and younger must bring birth certificate, ages 16 and older must have a valid ID. Students must attend all sessions and pass an exam to become certified.

Topics included: hunter ethics and responsibility, firearms and ammunition, firearms safety, hunter preparation, first aid and survival, hunter skills, primitive hunting equipment, and wildlife conservation, management and identification.

Seating is limited, so reserve your place early and check on any special requirements, bringing of lunches, or fees needed for that location. All regional classes scheduled can be seen on the regional web site at: www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

Franklin County

Location: Union Fire House #1
Date: October 12th, 13th & 14th
Time: 6:30pm to 10pm each night
Registration#: (636) 583-8471
Remarks: \$3 fee by facility

Jefferson County

Location: Festus Conservation Club
Date: October 3rd, 5th, & 8th
Time: Mon & Wed 6:30pm to 9:30pm, Sat 8am to 4pm
Registration#: (636) 933-0908
Remarks: \$3 fee for Sat. Lunch

Location: High Ridge Elks Club
Date: October 5th, 7th & 9th
Time: Wed & Fri 6:30pm to 9:30pm, Sun 8am to 4pm
Registration#: (636) 461-1194

Location: Jefferson College
Date: October 11th, 13th & 15th
Time: Tues & Thu 6:30pm to 9:30pm, Saturday 8am to 3pm
Registration#: (636) 797-3000 ext 144
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

St. Charles County

Location: Lake St. Louis Fire Station
Date: October 1st & 2nd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 625-7943
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: St. Peters City Hall
Date: October 15th & 16th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 477-6600 ext 400
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: St. Charles Community College
Date: October 29th & 30th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 922-8233
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Wentzville Parks Banquet Hall
Date: October 8th & 9th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 327-7665 or 332-4236
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

St. Louis County

Location: Powder Valley Nature Center
Date: October 1st & 2nd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 301-1500



Location: Forest Park Community College
Date: October 1st & 2nd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 664-9175
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Florissant Valley Community College
Date: October 1st & 2nd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 595-4444
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Meremac Community College
Date: October 8th & 9th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 984-7777
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Bellefontaine Neighbors Recreation Center
Date: October 8th & 15th
Time: 9am to 4:30pm each Saturday
Registration#: (314) 867-0700
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Affton Community Center
Date: October 8th & 9th
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 615-4386
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Forest Park Community College
Date: October 22nd & 23rd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 664-9175
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Florissant Valley Community College
Date: October 22nd & 23rd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 595-4444
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Meremac Community College
Date: October 22nd & 23rd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 984-7777
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Columbia Bottom Conservation Area
Date: October 22nd & 23rd
Time: 9am to 4:30pm each day
Registration#: (314) 877-6014
Remarks: \$5 fee by facility

Location: Powder Valley Nature Center
Date: October 22nd & 23rd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (314) 301-1500

Warren County

Location: Marthasville Community Club
Date: October 14th & 15th
Time: Fri 6pm to 9:30pm, Sat. 8am to 5:30pm each day
Registration#: (636) 433-2240

Location: Wright City Lions Club
Date: October 22nd & 23rd
Time: 9am to 4pm each day
Registration#: (636) 441-4554



Conservation Connections

Missouri Department of Conservation
2360 Hwy D
St. Charles, MO 63304-2215
www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

PRSRT STD.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
JEFFERSON CITY MO
PERMIT 274

Look On The Web And Register For Our Up Coming Outdoor Programs Here Are Just A Few!

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis

www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch or www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges

December

At Busch

6th - 8th Hunter Education Course
10th Youth Rabbit Hunting Clinic
14th Deer Sausage & Hamberger Making
15th Deer Cooking

At Henges

7th & 10th BSA Rifle Merit Badge Program
9th Youth Rabbit Clinic
17th & 18th Trapping Seminar

January

At Henges

5th Winter Trout Fishing Seminar
7th Wildlife Brush Pile Construction
19th & 21st Women's Handgun Orientation

At Busch

17th - 19th Hunter Education Course

Outdoor Education Center Volunteers Wanted

Do you like working with people of all ages? We are continually looking for individuals who enjoy sharing their time, love for the outdoors and dedication to conservation. If you are interested contact us at:

Busch (636) 300-1953 ext 251

Henges (636) 938-9548

**No MORE
Trash!**